

Well Done Minister.

I would like to congratulate The Hon. Minister Mr. Wistin Abela for having withdrawn clause 99.04 in the Committee stage of the Bill amending the Import Duty Act 1976. The proposed clause was going to impose duty on postage, revenue and similar stamps (including stamp postmark and franked envelopes, letter-cards and the like) used, or new issue in the country to which they are destined."

This clause if it had been implemented would have harmed Maltese Philately tremendously, as it would have discouraged people from taking up the hobby. New blood is always encouraged and this is one of the objectives of our Society. Moreover most of Malta's Classical Philatelic material is unfortunately in the hands of foreign collectors, and this clause would have defeated our aim to attract such material back to Malta. I thank the Hon. Minister on behalf of the Philatelic Society, who not only granted me a personal interview at very short notice, but withdrew the clause, and so the position is back to what it was before the publication of the Bill in May.

The Guest Speaker at our May meeting, which coincided with a visit to Malta, by our colleagues from the London "Malta" Study Circle, was Dr. Agius Vadala LL.D., who delighted us all by his excellent research talk cum display on Maltese engravings.

Dr. Agius Vadala should be congratulated on his research, as he managed to enlighten us all on the method the Grand Master La Vallette used during the Siege of 1565, to inform the Princes of Europe what a formidable enemy he was fighting, how the Siege was progressing, and to exhort them to

fighting such a fanatical enemy. These letters were accompanied by the illustrations, that formed the basis of this talk, which were extremely detailed. Research was done on the messengers who risked their lives by having to pass through enemy lines and then cross over the dangerous Malta channel to Sicily in make shift boats.

Dr. Vadala not only traces by name, date etc, these deliverymen (Postman) of the period but goes also into great detail about the phase of the moon, and the dates of the in and out going recorded letters.

The talk cum display was so well received, that I was approached by a number of our members to reproduce it in our Journal so that this excellent research would be in the libraries of our local and foreign members.

I sincerely hope that Dr. Agius Vadala's work will stimulate more of our members to do other research.

The March 1986 publication will commemorate the 20th Anniversary of our Society and I am planning a Commemorative Issue of the PSM Magazine.

I appeal to local and foreign members to send me photos-material of items in their possession so that once again we will have a publication which our Society will be proud of.

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